

THE MESSAGE.

The part of the President's message which is devoted to the emancipation question is the only feature which is likely to elicit much discussion.

The originality of Mr. Lincoln's propositions and arguments cannot fail to strike the country, and the world, and must, therefore, call out a pretty broad and full discussion of the slavery question.

He proposes some alterations in the Constitution, which, of themselves, will be considered grave matters of great public interest. The chief feature of this proposed alteration upon which we shall now comment, is the time allowed to the States in which to put an end to slavery.

The proposition does not meet our views, for as the loyal slaveholders are to be compensated for their human chattels, it strikes us that freedom should be more speedily conferred upon the bondman. He is entitled to his liberty to-day, as much as his children will be thirty-seven years hence. We can readily understand, however, the President's purpose. It is to find some common ground upon which there may be agreement of all parties, and of men of every shade of opinion, in effecting this work.

The President evidently wishes to bring the border State people to adopt an emancipation policy which shall look to the ultimate extinction of slavery. Mr. Lincoln would, if we understand him, lead the people of these States to do something to save themselves from loss before it shall be too late; hence he proposes that Congress and the loyal States shall tender to them, through the forms of constitutional amendment, a motive for action. Viewing the President's proposition in this light, we can readily appreciate his views as well as the patriotism which inspired them.

There is another view of this perplexing question which may have influenced the President in offering these opinions, and arguments to the country. The South entertain the notion very generally that the North has no right to interfere in any way with their "peculiar institution" (the Southern opinion and principles are all wrong upon the subject of slavery. They do not therefore care to move even when it is proposed to pay them for their slaves, lest it might seem like yielding to Tanquer pressure and Yankee opinion. We find this to be the stick with many slaveholders with whom we have conversed. Mr. Lincoln would obviate this by so altering the Constitution that it shall be deemed a matter of sacred compact, and the whole country pledge itself thus to carry out in good faith each particular act in the great work of emancipation.

The President's argument, from his premises, is sound and able, and, as we have said elsewhere, will make an impression upon the country.

The thirty-seven years—the time fixed by the President as the limit of slavery—will probably never be adopted, and if it were adopted in form, slavery would come to an end long before 1900.

The English Government tried the apprenticeship system in their colonies, but the plan was rejected, and took immediate emancipation, and hence 800,000 human beings were free in a single day. So it will be in this country long before 1900. Nevertheless, Mr. Lincoln's proposition is a definite one, and contrary opinions may harmonize upon some middle ground.

We are in favor of compensated emancipation, and we are so because we believe that the perpetuity of this country under one government is an impossibility while slavery exists; moreover, we are so because we believe that the North should bear its part of the expense in getting rid of slavery. The North has shared in the profits of slavery, if, indeed, there have been any profits. At any rate, it is no more than just that the North should tax itself to get rid of slavery and of all its concomitant evils. What is money compared to freedom?

We can say frankly that we like the message, without pretending to agree with every view therein presented.

It bears upon its every page, not only marks of ability and honesty, but of true statesmanship, and we cordially commend it to the country, hoping that it will tend greatly to tranquilize our distracted country, and lead to the consummation of those grand results which we have no doubt our patriotic President desires so devoutly.

THE McDOWELL COURT OF INQUIRY.

Tuesday, December 2.
Col. E. S. Goodwin being called to testify regarding the authorship of a letter derogatory of Gen. McDowell, written from 69 St. Mark's Place, September 24, 1862, acknowledged its authorship. He was excused from giving further testimony until to-day, owing to indisposition.

Maj. Wilson was the next witness called. His testimony had reference mainly to certain supplies of corn and forage, which had been taken, by Gen. McD., from a Mr. Hoff man, at Bell Plain, Stafford county, Virginia, for the use of the army.

Maj. Clarence Brown (of Gen. McD.'s staff) and Maj. Brock, A. G., U. S. A., were also examined on the same point.

COURT-MARTIAL OF GEN. PORTER.

The court met yesterday morning at eleven o'clock, but adjourned until to-morrow at the same hour, without doing anything, owing to the continued absence of Gen. King. He has been telegraphed to, and is expected to-morrow. An organization will then doubtless take place, and the charges against Gen. Porter be read.

The question of open court has not yet been determined upon. Judge Advocate Holt desired the court to decide the matter yesterday, as numerous inquiries had been made of him, but Gen. Hunter, the president, said he preferred no action being taken in the matter until after the organization. Gen. Hunter is said to be disinclined to the proposition, but most of the others favor it. He has asked to be relieved from service on this court, owing to a pressure of other duties, but it is not thought he can be spared at present.

A WASHINGTON SOLDIER MARRIED.—Lieut. Wm. H. Powell, Adjutant of the Fourth Infantry, and A. A. General of the First Brigade of Sax's Division, of this city, led to the hymenial altar yesterday morning, the fair Miss Etchison, also of this city. The Rev. J. C. Smith officiated.

Lieut. Powell is an old Washingtonian, and in the recent battle in which he has been engaged, both on the Peninsula and in Maryland, has displayed unusual courage and efficiency.

There will be no public receptions at the White House this winter, owing to the recent death of Willie Lincoln.

A DECISIVE BATTLE.

Those who express an impatient desire for a decisive battle between Gen. Burnside and Gen. Lee, do so, in many cases, without reflecting upon the meaning of the words they use. A decisive battle is a very serious thing, and does not occur often in the history of wars. Is it altogether clear that it is for the interest of the nation to put its fate upon the hazard of a single throw of the die anywhere? If such extreme counsels can be listened to upon either side, is it not to the rebels that they commend themselves most plausibly? Is it not they, rather than us, who are forced to take the last chance of the ruined and desperate gambler?

A battle may be called decisive, which results in the substantial ruin of one of the armies engaged, or because the event of it determines the issue of a campaign, as where the defeated party can raise no second army, or where success gives to the victor some dominating position.

It is an approved military maxim, never to offer, or voluntarily accept battle, with anything like equal chances, where the consequences of defeat would be more disastrous than the consequences of victory would be likely to be advantageous.

It will hardly be said that the loss of Richmond would be so great a blow to the rebellion, as the loss of Washington would be to the national Government, or that a pitched battle in which we should wage Washington against Richmond, would not be giving to the enemy tremendous odds in the stakes. And no battle between Gen. Burnside and Gen. Lee can be called decisive, except one fought upon a scale and under circumstances to determine which party shall have both capitals.

The rebels can lose Richmond without losing Virginia, and they can lose Virginia without losing their cause. It is known that they were on the point of abandoning Richmond last summer, if, unexpectedly to them, our army had not been so delayed in the horrible swamps of the Chickahominy and thereby so reduced and so enfeebled, that they concluded to take the chances of assailing it in the field. If Richmond is lost, they can still make another stand at Lynchburg, and if Virginia itself is lost, they still have ample regions at the South within which to retire.

We have too much confidence in the wisdom of our military management to apprehend that any unequal or disproportioned risks will be voluntarily taken. The public sentiment demands fighting, but it does not demand that the fate of a cause, which now has all apparent prospects in its favor, shall be cast upon anything so uncertain in its own nature as a single battle. That is the policy of despair, not of reasonably assured success.

It is only after a further development of our military operations in the West and Southwest that the importance of a great battle between Gen. Burnside and Gen. Lee can be equal to both parties. With East Tennessee in our possession, the Mississippi opened, Texas cut off from the Confederate empire, and the States of Louisiana and Mississippi thoroughly subdued, the rebel cause would be wholly overthrown by the defeat of Gen. Lee's army, then limited to a single and assailable line of retreat, and with its basis for possible recuperation reduced to insignificant boundaries.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

General Cadwalader has been assigned to an important position in the field.

We have not yet received any of the reports of leaders of Departments, except that of the Navy. It is probably our fault in not going for them or in not wanting them. We supposed they would be sent to us, as was that of the Secretary of the Navy.

There is now some speculation in Washington as to the destination of the Banks' expedition. The newsmongers, for a day or two, have placed the General with his transports in James river. This is not true. The General himself says that he is going South.

Col. W. R. Holloway, private secretary of Governor Morton, is in Washington looking after the welfare of the Indiana troops. The colonel, we believe, is a son of Commissioner Holloway.

Extensive salt works at New Topsail Island, twelve miles from Wilmington, N. C., were recently destroyed by our forces. These works produced about five hundred bushels of salt per day. They were utterly destroyed.

From various sources we learned that the Southern people are despairing of foreign recognition.

The rumor will still have it that Gen. Meigs is removed, though it is stoutly denied by parties who claim to know where they affirm.

GEN. BURNSIDE.—Some unduly sensitive persons, we understand, think that what we said of Gen. Burnside in our yesterday's issue is indicative of our opposition to that general, and want him removed. It is not so. We see nothing to qualify our remarks, and can only say now, that we have the very highest opinion of him, and can wish him nothing but success.

THE CONDEMNED MINNESOTA INDIANS.—Only a portion of the 500 Indians sentenced to be hung in Minnesota, for murder, will be executed.

Acting Assistant Surgeon W. H. Campbell has been ordered to proceed to New York and take passage in steamer Circassian for Port Royal, where he will report to Rear Admiral Dupont, for duty on board steamer Commodore McDougal.

Acting Master Samuel H. Washburne has been detached from the Galena and ordered to proceed to Cairo for duty.

Acting Master Wm. F. Shankland has been detached from the Currituck, and ordered to Pensacola, Florida, for the command of the Probie.

Acting Volunteer Wm. H. West has been ordered to New York for command of the Massachusetts.

Acting Master E. Kimble has been ordered to Hampton Roads for duty on the Galena.

Decisions by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has made the following decisions:

Railroad companies making cars and locomotives to replace old stock, or to increase equipment, must pay tax upon the whole value of such manufactures, if their annual product exceeds \$500, even though the articles are manufactured for their own consumption.

Carpeting.—Carpeting, when prepared by dealers in carpeting, and upon special orders, are not regarded as manufactures, nor liable to taxation as such.

Salts.—Salts, when made upon order and to suit a particular vessel, are not regarded as manufactures within the meaning of the excise law, and they are consequently exempt from duty.

Diamonds and Emeralds.—The tax on diamonds and emeralds, when previously cut and prepared for setting, will be assessed only on the value of the setting.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE NEW YORK ELECTION.

Vote Result.

The Democrats Carry the City.

Arrival from Havana via Port Royal.

Mexican Advice.

Nothing of Interest from the Army of the Potomac.

New York, Dec. 2.—A small vote was polled in the city election to-day.

Matthew T. Brennan (United Democratic and Constitutional Union ticket) was elected comptroller over Robert T. Hays by about 10,000 majority.

John E. Devellin (United Democratic and Constitutional Union ticket) was elected corporation counsel over Alexander W. Bradford by nearly 15,000 majority.

New York, Dec. 2.—The steamer Union from Havana on the 25th instant, via Port Royal on the twenty-ninth, has arrived here.

Mexican advice notes the peaceful occupation of Jalapa by the French, the inhabitants fleeing. No Mexican troops were there. The roads are said to be impassable, and an attack on Puebla will not be attempted till February.

Sonora will be occupied by eight thousand troops.

Venezuelan deeds mention the death of Gen. Sobilla. Monagas, it is thought, is fleeing toward Trinidad.

There is nothing new at Havana.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, December 2, 1862.

There is nothing new in relation to military affairs worth mentioning. The weather is clear and cold.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Great Excitement about the Rebel Conscript.

Nashville, December 2.—There is much excitement in Middle Tennessee about the enforcement of the rebel conscription act.

A regiment is organizing in Lincoln county to resist the conscription.

The people were fired upon by rebel cavalry while conscripting.

The rebel forgers are seizing the winter meat of private families.

Guerrillas attacked General Sill's forage train yesterday, but were repulsed with considerable loss.

Four passenger cars ran off the track, on the south side of Gallatin, yesterday.

Whereabouts of Little Crow—His Band Preparing for a Vigorous Attack.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has had before him by Senator Rice a letter from an intelligent correspondent, dated St. Paul, Nov. 23, giving the whereabouts and intentions of that daring and dangerous chief, "Little Crow."

and urging the propriety of a winter campaign for the purpose of driving him from his position.

He was discovered by this correspondent's party encamped with about 1,300 Sioux warriors near Devil's Lake, situated about 80 miles from St. Joseph and about 300 miles from Abercrombie.

A council was held, and among other things revealed by "Little Crow," was the fact that expecting to have about 3,000 men by the spring, through acquisitions from the Gros Ventre and Missouri Indians, he intended a vigorous attack at that time. The writer says that Devil's Lake is a most advantageous position and a great stronghold for defense, and unless "Little Crow" be dislodged before spring, he will be able to arrange a campaign in comparison with which our Indian war thus far has been mere child's play.

Senator Rice endorses the views of the writer with regard to a vigorous winter campaign, as does also Commissioner Dole.

PERSONAL.—Hon. Geo. S. Cobb and Hon. P. Perrey, N. J.; Hon. J. W. Killinger and Hon. J. T. Hale, Pa.; Hon. E. H. Smith, L. I.; Hon. C. C. Pomeroy, N. Y.; Hon. Geo. C. Woodruff, Ct.; Maj. Gen. Sedgwick and Maj. Gen. Stahel, U. S. A., are at Willards.

Judge Armon, Colorado Territory; Hon. F. A. Pike and family, Maine; Major Norell, U. S. A.; Capt. Brown and lady, U. S. A.; Hon. Mr. Price and family, Mo., are at the National.

Hon. J. A. Craven, Ind.; A. J. Dickinson and wife, N. Y.; Col. G. De Korpony, U. S. A.; Miss Mary De Korpony, Va.; Dr. D. S. Hopkins, U. S. A., are at the Metropolitan.

We are beginning to get the opinions of the press on the President's message. They are very generally just, thus far, to our patriotic and honest President. Some, to be sure, as was expected, dissent from his emancipation views, and others will grumble anyhow. "It is their opinion."

The "Passaic" has arrived at the navy yard with her 15-inch guns, for the purpose of securing ammunition.

WANTS.

WANTED TO RENT OR PURCHASE.

A MEDICAL RESIDENCE, with improvements, convenient to my store. JAMES B. WILSON, 277 Pennsylvania avenue, N. W., between 6th and 7th sts., south side.

FAMILY HOUSE WANTED.—About 14 or 15 hands high; must be free from tricks; suitable for children to ride and drive. Also, Harney and Co. Grocer, No. 27 Pennsylvania avenue, N. W., between 6th and 7th sts., south side.

WANTED.—A small furnished house, situated on north side of Pennsylvania avenue, between Fifth and Twelfth streets. Address, with reference, to J. A. ZAPFONE, city post office.

HOUSE WANTED.—A commodious house, centrally located, with or without furniture. Address Box 214, Post Office.

WANTED.—Five Hundred Laborers, to work in the Commissary Department. Apply to Capt. Voss, C. S., at the foot of G street.

WANTED.—At the New York Employment Office, No. 211 Sixth street, near Pennsylvania avenue, TWENTY-FIVE (25) White and Colored CLERKS, with good references, as Cooks, Chambermaids, Landladies, Waitresses, Nurses, and Seamstresses. Also, young Colored Men, to wait on tables in Private Families or Hotels. Also, wanted, house immediately, with or without furniture. Employers in want of good help, will find it in their advantage to call. N. H. MILLER, nov 28-101

WANTED.—For a gentleman and his wife, a Double Parlor, with first-class furniture and board. Price not so much a consideration as a nice place. The best city reference given and required. Address "Banker," at the City Post Office.

NOTICE.—MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STRANGERS VISITING WASHINGTON Will find it much to their advantage and personal comfort (if rooming out) to take their meals at this well-known and long-established Restaurant, where the subscriber has spared no expense in refitting his entire establishment, which is intended exclusively for a first-class Gentlemen's Restaurant, where may be found all the comforts of a private home, and very moderate prices. Gentlemen are particularly requested to call before making arrangements elsewhere. C. GAUTIER, nov 28-101m 207 Pennsylvania avenue.

FROM PORTER'S MORGAN.

Items from Southern Papers.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1862.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 o'clock.

Mr. GRIMES offered a resolution that the Secretary of the Navy be directed to furnish to the Senate, copies of the majority and minority reports of the board of officers appointed in the military and naval departments, authorized by the Secretary of the Navy to accept the title to the League Island, in the Delaware river. Agreed to.

Mr. POWELL offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate of the number and names of the citizens of Kentucky who have been arrested and are now confined in the military prisons and camps of the United States outside of the limits of said State, and what are the charges against them, by whom made and by whose order the arrests were made.

The present communication being objected to, the resolution was laid over.

Mr. McDUGALL offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a statement of the amount of money paid for services in prosecuting and investigating land titles in the State of California, during the years 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860 and 1861, upon whose order the same was paid and to whom, and also the amounts paid for searches in Mexico. Agreed to.

Mr. POWELL offered a joint resolution, that whereas many citizens of the United States have been seized by persons acting or pretending to act under the authority of the United States, and have been carried out of the jurisdiction of the States of their residence and imprisoned in the military prisons of the United States without any public charge having been preferred against them, and without any opportunity being allowed them to learn or disprove the charges made, or alleged to be made, against them, and whereas such arrests have been made in States where there was no insurrection or rebellion or pretence thereof, or any other obstruction to the authority of the Government; and whereas it is the sacred right of every citizen to be held in no manner of liberty, without due process of law, and when arrested shall have a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, therefore

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That all such arrests are unauthorized by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and are usurpations of the power delegated by the people to the President or any other official, and all such arrests are hereby condemned and declared palpable violations of the Constitution of the United States; and it is hereby demanded that all such arrests shall hereafter cease, and persons arrested and held shall have a prompt and speedy public trial according to the provisions of the Constitution, or should be immediately released.

Objection being made to the present consideration, the resolution was laid over and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS offered a joint resolution, that it be heretofore recommended to the President to choose as many delegates as severally they are entitled to as Senators and Representatives in Congress, to meet in convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the first Monday of April, next, to consider the present condition of the United States and the proper means for the restoration of the Union; and that the Legislature of the several States take such action as may seem best, at the earliest practicable day.

Objection being made, the resolution was laid over.

Mr. CALVERT offered a resolution, calling on the Secretary of War to know by what authority certain citizens of Delaware were imprisoned. On motion of Mr. CLARK.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Board, showing the number of American seamen registered in the several ports of entry of the United States, during the year ending September 30, 1862.

Mr. HOOPER reported, from the Committee of Ways and Means, a bill providing that all judgments recovered by the United States on such suits now pending or may hereafter be brought for the collection of duties on imports, or on imports, or of any money due the United States from any collector or other officer of the customs of the United States, shall be paid in gold and silver of the United States.

Mr. HOOPER also reported, from the same committee, a bill to amend an act to provide for the recovery of duties which were now many suits pending in the courts of the United States, to recover duties which are payable by a law of last session in specie; the judgments, if recovered, to be paid in money represented by Government notes, which are worth twenty-five per cent. less than specie. The bill was passed.

Mr. HOLMAN moved the following resolution: That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to report a bill increasing the pay of private soldiers to \$15 a month, and making reductions in the pay of officers and non-commissioned officers in active service in the field as may not impair the efficiency of the public service.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM moved that the resolution be amended so as to make the \$15 payable in gold.

The original resolution was adopted with a modification that the committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill, &c.

Mr. CALVERT introduced the following resolution: That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to inform the House of Representatives of the names of all midshipmen who have been appointed from the recess of Congress to the Naval Academy other than those made regularly under the law governing such appointments, and if, so by whom, and at what time, and by what authority, and if such appointments have been made, that he be directed to furnish this House with a list of names, distinguishing the names of those who have been appointed. Adopted.

Mr. SHEFFIELD moved that the Committee on Commerce be and is hereby instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the act approved May 30, 1862, supplemental to an act to provide for the collection of duties on imports and for other purposes, as provided for the distribution of the proceeds of the penitentiary under the said act, and the act to which the same is supplemental, among officers of the customs and others, with leave to report by bill or otherwise. Adopted.

Mr. SHEFFIELD moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be and is hereby instructed to consider the propriety of admitting cotton brought from foreign countries to be imported with duty, with leave to report by bill or otherwise. Adopted.

Mr. EDWARDS moved that the Committee on Public Expenditures be instructed to inquire into the expediency of the general law, and to make such reductions may be made therein compatible with the public service. Adopted.

Mr. COX moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the tax on whisky from five cents a gallon, with a view to an increase of the revenue not received.

The House then adjourned.

NOTICE.

U. S. ASSASSIN'S OFFICE, Collection District of Columbia.

All persons concerned in the United States assessment on Licenses, Goods, Wares, Trades or Manufactures, are hereby notified that the Congress approved July 1, 1862, which reside in the District of Columbia, are hereby notified that the duties on such assessments are now due, and that the expiration of the time thus allowed for inspection of said list, in his office, at the place held by the collector of the District of Columbia, on or before the 15th day of December, 1862, is hereby notified that the duties on such assessments are now due, and that the expiration of the time thus allowed for inspection of said list, in his office, at the place held by the collector of the District of Columbia, on or before the 15th day of December, 1862, is hereby notified that the duties on such assessments are now due, and that the expiration of the time thus allowed for inspection of said list, in his office, at the place held by the collector of the District of Columbia, on or before the 15th day 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